

10/604,350
Amdt. Dated Apr. 7, 2005
Reply to Office Action of Jan. 10, 2005

REMARKS

Two "First" Office Actions were mailed for the Present Application. One was mailed January 10, 2005 and a Supplemental Office Action was mailed January 21, 2005.

Claims 6-12, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Examiner Buttner suggested moving the last parenthesis to correct this indefiniteness as claims 6, 9 and 10 have been amended accordingly.

Claims 6-11, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Wu *et al*, U.S. Patent Number 6486261 ("Wu"). Claims 6 and 9 have been amended to limit the polytetramethylene ether glycol terminated hexamethylene diisocyanate prepolymer to having a NCO group content ranging from 8.0% to 12.0%, support for which is found at paragraph [0035] of the Specification. Wu specifically teaches "a cover layer comprising a polyurethane composition formed from a prepolymer having no greater than 7.5 percent by weight unreacted isocyanate groups." (See the Abstract and Column 5, lines 42-44). Thus, Wu teaches away from the amended claims. Further, Wu's reference to "mixtures thereof" follows a list of 18 polyamine curatives (isomers counted separately). Mixtures could mean all 18 mixed together or any combination. $18!$ (factorial) is 6.402×10^{15} different possible mixtures.

Claims 6-12, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Voorheis *et al*, U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0064826 ("Voorheis"). Claims 6 and 9 have been

10/604,350

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amended to include the limitation that a weight ratio of the polytetramethylene ether glycol terminated hexamethylene diisocyanate prepolymer to the curative ranges from about 10:1 to about 30:1, support for which is found at paragraph [0035] of Specification. Voorheis is directed at the use of 2.2 parts per hundred of an halogenated organosulfur in the core of a golf ball. Like Wu, Voorheis provides a laundry list of ingredients. However, like Wu, Voorheis fails to disclose the weight ratio of a polytetramethylene ether glycol terminated hexamethylene diisocyanate prepolymer to a curative within the claimed range.

Claims 6-11, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious as being unpatentable over Wu or Voorheis in view of Rosenberg *et al.*, U.S. patent Publication Number 2003/0203771 ("Rosenburg"). The failure of Wu and Voorheis to disclose the invention of the amended claims has been discussed above. Rosenberg, like Wu also teaches away from the claimed invention since Rosenberg teaches a 1,6-hexamethylene diisocyanate prepolymer with less than 2% by weight of residual 1,6-hexamethylene diisocyanate monomer. Further, Rosenberg fails to disclose the curative blend of the amended claims. Thus, the prior art fails to disclose the invention of the amended claims.

Claim 13 was only rejected under Section 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 10 was amended to include all of the limitations of claim 13, and thus it is believed that claim 10 and all claims dependent thereon are allowable.

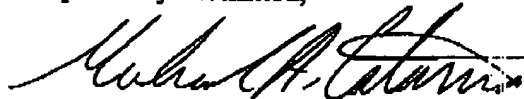
The Cross-Reference section has been amended to reflect the issuance of the parent application.

10/604,350
Amtd. Dated Apr. 7, 2005
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It is believed that the remaining claims are allowable. The Applicant therefore respectfully solicits a Notice of Allowance.

April 7, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



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